

DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SPECIES OF NORTH AMERICAN HETEROCERA.

BY HERMAN STRECKER.

Smerinthus astarte.

♂ expands 3 inches; head brown; thorax above dark brown, patagiae whitish gray; abdomen grayish brown above, more ashen beneath.

Primaries dentated exteriorly, but not as deeply notched as in *Cerysi*, but more so than *Ophthalmicus*. Pointed apically more as in the latter, not so squarely cut off as in *Cerysi*. Secondaries larger in proportion and more evenly cut on outer edge.

Upper surface. Ground-color whitish gray, variegated with brownish shades and bands as in *Cerysi* and *Ophthalmicus*, not as much broken and zigzag as in the first, neither as clearly defined as in the last; the white discal lune and accompanying line, extending half way along the median nervure, are boldly defined, as in *Cerysi*.

Secondaries rosy with white at inner margin, grayish at costa and inclined to brownish at exterior margin. An anal ocellus black, with a bisected blue ring enclosing large black centre. Fringe white.

Under surface resembles closely that of the two allied species alluded to.

Taken, in several examples, by Mr. David Bruce, near Denver, Colorado.

This remarkable insect, whether a good species or a variety of *Ophthalmicus* or *Cerysi*, it seems impossible to determine; geographically considered one might be led to the conclusion that it was a link between the two, and to compare it placed aside of examples of either it is an impossibility to decide to which it belongs; the strongest point (and not a very strong one either) is the bisected blue ring of the anal ocellus, which would denote a closer affinity to *Cerysi*. Were it a hybrid, the product of the aforementioned two species it could not be more difficult to draw the line of separation, or to say to which species (or form?) it was most closely allied. Future captures in various localities may eventually lead to the knowledge that all three, *Ophthalmicus*, *Astarte* and *Cerysi* are but forms of one species: to which belief I am most strongly inclined at the present writing.

Ecpantheria cæca.

♂ expands 1½ inches; head white above, black in front and

beneath; collar white, with two black lines or marks; patagia white, with a black band; thorax above white with a black central band from collar to abdomen; abdomen above whitish near the thorax, rest blackish, beneath white, a row of four or five (body a little abraded at sides) black spots laterally, and five ventrally; legs black, furred inwardly with white.

Primaries, upper surface, white with black spots, arranged much in the same order and number as in *Scribonia*, but instead of being circular or oval as in that species, they are parallelogrammic, square or wedge-shaped, and are not black rings encircling a white spot, but are all black blind eyes.

Secondaries white with some scattered brown marks at outer margin, heaviest near apical angle, and a brown discal spot.

Hab.—Colorado.

There is on this species none of the blue sheen so conspicuous on *Scribonia*, but the marks are all black or brownish black, and the whole insect calls up the idea very strongly of *Arctia Spectabilis* Tausch., from Russia.

Spilosoma niobe.

Expands $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches; head white, palpi yellow, terminally black; thorax white; abdomen above white, with a row of five large dorsal spots, sides yellowish, with two rows of black spots; some allowance must be made for the description of the abdomen, as it was compressed and somewhat rubbed. Legs yellow, tarsi ringed with black and white. Antennae wanting on the single example whence this description is drawn.

Upper surface. Primaries white, with all nervures and nervules heavily bordered on both sides with brown; this brown is not dark and is much of the color of coffee with a somewhat undue amount of milk in it, in some lights it has a slight bronzy appearance.

Secondaries white, the nervules on costal half of wing towards apex shaded with same brown as superiors, but not as heavily.

Under surface nearly as above.

One example taken in Florida, some years since, by Mr. A. Bolter, from whom I obtained it.

Harpyia albicoma.

♂ ♀ size and form of *Borealis*, *Bicuspis*, *Bifida*, etc. Head and collar pure white; thorax above dark gray and white; abdomen above gray heavily clothed with white hair. Body beneath white.

Primaries, upper surface white with a dark steel-gray band crossing the wing about one-third from base, this band is chevron-shaped, narrowest in the middle and widening to double its width towards the costal and interior margins; in some examples divided entirely in the middle. Interior to this band is a transverse row of four dots of same color, and a single dot on costal nervure near the shoulder. Between the outer and median space of wing are three irregular broken gray lines, the outermost of which on the costal half joined by a broad wedge-shaped gray mark. A dark discal dot and dark point at termination of nervules.

Secondaries white, dark discal mark and dark dot at end of each nervule.

Under surface white, with markings of upper side more or less faintly reproduced, and the addition of a gray transverse line across the middle of secondaries.

Described from examples taken, in summer of 1883, by Mr. David Bruce, in mountains of Colorado.

This species comes nearest to the European *Bicuspis* Bkh., in the latter the dark band and marks are much heavier and more decided, but their arrangement is nearly the same.

Mr. Bruce took, this last season, also in Colorado, examples of *Cinerea* Wlk., which do not differ from those taken in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York.

Lophopteryx elegans.

♂. Form of *Carmelita*, which appears to be its nearest ally. Expands 2 inches. Head fawn-color; thorax above slate-gray, abdomen fawn, shading into brown towards the thorax, beneath whitish.

Primaries chocolate-brown, darkest towards base and along the costa, and shading into ashen along the exterior margin, a streak or line of pure silvery white along submedian nervule, starting at base and extending one-third the length of the inner margin; the narrow space between this line and inner margin paler brown, inclining to ochre. Two short, dark, subapical longitudinal lines; exterior margin with a fine dark line.

Secondaries white, with dark anal patch cut with a fine white line, as in other species.

Under surface. Primaries hoary gray, with brownish on costa and broad indistinct submarginal shade of same color parallel

with the exterior margin. Secondaries white, edged with brown on costa, and on exterior margin near and at anal angle.

From one ♂ received from Mr. Fish, taken in the vicinity of Oldtown, in the State of Maine.

In the old collection of Trexler, which came into my possession about twenty years since, was an example, in poor condition, which I consider identical with the above; recently I have received several examples, males, from Mr. David Bruce, who took them in Colorado. These I can consider nothing more than a variety of the above; the only difference being in the color of head and primaries, which in Trexler's and these Colorado examples is of a slate-gray, and not brownish as in the Maine examples; to prevent, however, the misfortune of this variety being described as a new species, I would designate it as *L. Elegans* var. *Grisea*.

***Lasiocampa gargamelle*.**

♂ ♀ in form and general resemblance allied to *L. Pini*.

♂ expands about $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Head and thorax brown, intermixed with gray; abdomen brown.

Primaries obscure grayish, caused by an admixture of white and brown hair and scales; the basal third darker and more brownish; there is a tolerably broad outer margin wherein the brownish shade also prevails, this is separated from the paler, more ashen median space by an irregular zigzag brown line; there are also faint indications of two lines crossing the wing, one subbasal and grayish, the other half-way between the discal spot and the brown zigzag line, and scarcely perceptible; discal spot small, round and pure white.

Secondaries brown, with a paler, somewhat ochraceous mesial band, fringe white.

Under surface. All wings brown, with a common, rather broad pale, ochraceous median band.

♀ expands $3\frac{1}{4}$ – $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Color has more of the brownish prevailing. Character of the markings as in male, but less strongly defined; the median band of secondaries above, and all bands beneath, narrower than in the other sex.

Hab.—Arizona.

By American authors this insect would be placed in Packard's genus *Gloveria*, the type of which was *Gloveria Arizonensis*; there is, however, nothing by which it can be separated from *Lasiocampo* Latr. (*Gastropacha* O.).